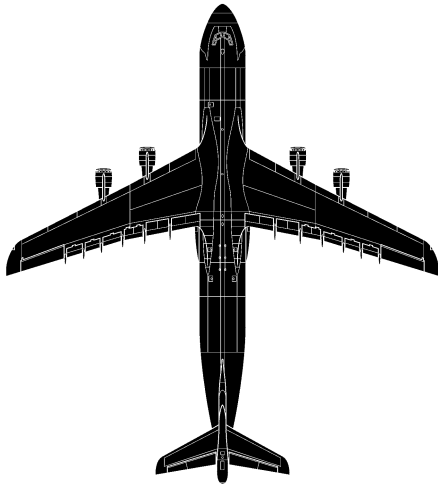


C-5 Galaxy



The C-5 Galaxy is a giant high-wing cargo airplane used by USAF in every major contingency since its delivery in 1969. The Lockheed airplane, with a singular T-tail and 25-degree wing sweep, emerged from a 1970s morass of problems and cost overruns—and near-cancellation—to become one of the world's longest-serving heavy cargo systems. With jet speed and long range, it has hauled everything from tanks to fleeing refugees.

The C-5's distinctive design derived from its predecessor, the Lockheed C-141. It was made much bigger, however, in part to satisfy an Army need for delivery of outsize equipment. The four-engined Galaxy features front and rear cargo openings, allowing drive-through use by wheeled and tracked vehicles. The C-5's landing gear "kneels" to truck-bed height so that pallets can be swiftly loaded onto a roller-equipped floor.

Development and production of the early C-5A model was hampered by an overambitious perfor-

mance requirement and the flawed Total Package Procurement contracting methods of the era. Still, the aircraft has been continuously modernized. First came an upgraded C-5B model in the 1980s. A more recent C-5M has new avionics and F138-GE-100 engines of greatly improved performance and reliability. It can transport cargo directly from home station to combat base.

Models of the Galaxy have served ably in both combat and humanitarian missions. It has been vital for heavy lift in many US military operations, including Vietnam, Iraq, the Balkans, and Afghanistan. Israel specifically recognized the C-5 as critically important in supplying Israel with vital arms in Operation Nickel Grass during the October 1973 Mideast War. It is expected to serve for decades to come.

—Walter J. Boyne

This aircraft: C-5A Galaxy—#69-0008—as it looked in March 2001 while with the 105th Airlift Wing, Stewart ANGB, N.Y.



The C-5 has seen service in every major contingency since 1969.

In Brief

Designed, built by Lockheed ★ first flight June 30, 1968 ★ number built 131 ★ crew of six (pilot, copilot, two loadmasters, two flight engineers) ★ armament none ★ **Specific to C-5A:** Four General Electric TF39-GE-1 turbofan engines ★ max (wartime) cargo load: 291,000 lb ★ max speed 571 mph ★ cruise speed 537 mph ★ max range 3,500 mi ★ weight (loaded, wartime) 840,000 lb ★ span 222 ft 10 in ★ length 247 ft 10 in ★ height 65 ft 1 in.

Famous Fliers

Notables: Paul Carlton, Duane Cassidy, Jack Catton, Christopher Kelly, William Moore Jr., Charles Robertson Jr. **Test pilots:** Hank Dees, Glen Gray, Frank Hadden, Ralph Moore, Leo Sullivan.

Interesting Facts

Nicknamed "FRED" (fantastic ridiculous economic-environmental disaster), "Linda Lovelace," "Lockheed Hilton" ★ contains cargo hold one foot longer than length of Wright brothers' first flight ★ suffered a thrown wheel and tire blowout on 1970 maiden operational landing ★ made in-flight drop launch of Minuteman ICBM (Oct. 24, 1974) ★ set 41 flight records on Sept. 13, 2009 ★ became first development program with \$1 billion overrun ★ seats passengers facing to the rear ★ remains largest aircraft to operate in Antarctic region ★ has wing tanks with capacity of six railroad tank cars ★ wears 2,600 pounds of paint ★ incorporates five miles of control cables.